

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-61 and 63-68 remain in this application. Claims 5, 9 and 63 have been amended. Claims 4, 8, 55-58, and 62 have been canceled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6-7 and 59-61 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Ikemura. In addition, the Office Action objects to claims 4-5, 8-9, and 62-63. While Applicant disagrees with the rejection, Applicant has amended the independent claims 1, 6, and 63 to include the limitations of objected claims 4, 8, and 62, respectively, in order to receive a Notice of Allowance in this case. As such, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims in a continuation at a later time.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 55-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Homer. While Applicant disagrees with the rejection, Applicant has chosen to cancel those claims in this response in order to receive a Notice of Allowance. As such, Applicant reserves the right to pursue these original claims in a continuation at a later date.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowability of certain claims.

Invitation for a telephone interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 408-720-8300 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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